

**NATIONAL**  
Take pride  
in your own  
profession  
**PAGE-3**



**LOCAL NEWS**  
Tourists flock to  
historical buildings  
in Mandalay  
**PAGE-4**



**NATIONAL**  
Chinese Film  
Festival 2017  
opens  
**PAGE-2**

**BUSINESS**  
Licences for over 170  
gem mining blocks to  
expire in October  
**PAGE-5**

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 2 October 2017



Yangonites showing solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO-ZAW MIN LATT (MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)**

## Standing together with State Counsellor

YESTERDAY afternoon many Yangon citizens engaged in a march to show their solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

U Zaw Min Htike, a participant from Maubin City, said the State Counsellor is taking a firm stand in handling the situation in Rakhine. "She (the State Coun-

sellor) does not take sides and is just in her actions," he said. "That's why we're showing our support by doing this rally. We want the other countries to know the reasons we're supporting her."

Supporters gathered at the Thakin Mya Park in Ahlone Township and listened to

the performance of Pan Ye Lan (Flower's Path), a music troupe. The crowd started their march at 3pm along Kannar Road and ended in front of Maha Bandula Park in front of City Hall. The supporters of the State Counsellor waved banners in her name and image and shouted their support for her.

Pan Ye Lan then performed at Maha Bandula Park and several of the participants spoke out on their reason for joining this show of support for the State Counsellor.

"We entertained those who participated in the rally," said U Thar Htwe, a member of Pan Ye Lan. "I want everyone to know

that no matter how many the State pressures us, if we the citizens are united then we can overcome all obstacles. If every community and township across the country holds these kind of supportive events then it will give strength to our leader who is under a lot of pressure," he said.

**SEE PAGE-3**



## BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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## Rice sacks donate to IDP camps in Maungtaw

U Aye Tha Aung, the Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, and other donors traveled to Maungtaw yesterday and donated sacks of rice to the IDP camps there.

The Deputy Speaker and entourage donated the rice sacks to the IDP camps in four monasteries in Buthidaung Township and to four monasteries and two schools in Maungtaw Township. The Deputy Speaker discussed about medical aid, food and clothing with the displaced ethnic people and Hindus who fled from the terrorist attacks by ARSA and gave them words of encouragement.

A displaced Hindu villager currently seeking shelter in an IDP camp at a school in Maungtaw said Hindu people are deeply affected by these events. "Every time there is a conflict the IDP camps always provide us with a place to stay, food and medical aid too," said the villager. "For this we thank the government and we promise to stand together with our ethnic brothers." There are currently 906 Hindu villagers taking shelter in the school.

Afterwards, U Kyaw Lwin, the Rakhine Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Minerals, said the government is



U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, donating rice for IDP camps in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

working to restore peace to the Rakhine region and that they are receiving help from the union government, Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw and other administrative bodies.

U Ye Htut, the Deputy Commissioner of Maungtaw General Administration Department, said they are giving priority to security details so that the IDPs can return to their homes. He said they have completed plans to deal with

the immediate food requirements and also plan to build more houses in sparsely populated villages. He said that there will be better security if the villages were to reside close to each other and the government is working to provide tractors to harvest the crops. He said they are trying to provide each household with livestock and crop seeds for farming and they will also provide trucks for villages with poor transportation.

Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors said they are sympathetic to the displaced ethnic people, which is why they travelled to Maungtaw twice in the same month. They have donated 140 rice sacks to IDP camps in Buthidaung Township and 225 rice sacks to Maungtaw Township and they will continue their travel to the remaining villages on 2 October. —Naing Linn Kyi, Thant Zin Win ■

## Sittway honours older persons

SITTWAY, the capital of Rakhine State, observed the International Day of the Older Persons at a home for the aged yesterday.

Rakhine State Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan said, "Social Welfare Department of the Rakhine State is caring 107 older persons at its three homes for the aged.

Financial aid is provided to nonagenarians and above under the government program which covers older persons in Sittway, Maungtaw, MraukU, Kyaukphyu, Thandwe and other townships.

Rakhine State High Court Chief Justice U Kyauk Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan, Rakhine State Advocate General U Kyaw Hla Tun and officials presented cash and kind to the older persons. —IPRD ■

## Chinese Film Festival 2017 opens in Nay Pyi Taw

Chinese Film Festival 2017 opened at Aungthabyay cinema in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday where movies depicting the religion and culture of China were screened.

"We can enjoy the beautiful natural sceneries, lifestyles, traditions, progress and innovations together with the elegance of the artistes in their performances and the skillfulness of the technicians in their terrific creations," said Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint at the ceremony.

The minister also expressed belief that the film festival would help promote organization-to-organization relations apart from people-to-people relations based

on the long-lived fraternal friendship and mutual understanding and respect,

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and Chinese Ambassador Mr Hong Liang and former Myanmar Miss Universe Moe Set Y formally opened the festival sponsored by the Chinese embassy in Myanmar.

"Such film festivals also serve as the facilitator for the progress of the film industries, economic relations and friendship of the two neighbours sharing a long common border" the Union minister added.

Apart from these benefits, the festival also gives wonderful experience to the audience, he said, expressing belief that future festivals grander and



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Chinese Ambassador Mr Hong Liang and Moe Set Y formally open the Chinese Film Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**

more enjoyable than the present one will further strengthen Sino-Myanmar friendly relations.

Chinese Ambassador Mr

Hong Liang also delivered address at the ceremony opened with two Chinese movies – Xuan Zang and Kung Fu Yoga.

Dr Pe Myint and Mr Hong

Liang honoured Moe Set Y who serves as the Ambassador of the Festival which continues till 8 October. —Myanmar News Agency ■



# Take pride in your own profession after constituting the legality, people's confidence, personal dignity and integrity of Police Force

"All of Myanmar Police Force, in carrying out the duties and enforcement of law should be transparent, accountable and responsible. Only then can the police constitute the integrity, dignity, people's confidence and legality and take pride in the profession, always striving for the good of the country and people," said Vice President U Myint Swe in the opening address of 53rd Myanmar Police Force Day Celebration at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw at 9am yesterday morning.

Then he added that the police force shall promote the relation with media so as to be able to render information immediately to people and mitigate the people's fear from crime, thus gaining the confidence of people on Myanmar Police Force.

"Now the world is changing at an alarming rate with creations in high tech, and accordingly new generation of crimes, terrorism and instability are brought about together with the advancement of technology. So police need training to cope with those crimes and to keep abreast with the police of other countries", he continued.

To enhance the capacity,



Vice President U Myint Swe attends 53rd Myanmar Police Force Day Celebration in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar police force is now undergoing training in foreign countries in cooperation with EU, Interpol, Aseanpol, AFP, DEA, MPS. The workshops are also being held in relation with human rights, rule of law with the assistance of UNDP, UNICEF, UNDOC, ICRC, OHCHR and UN.

The Vice President also stressed that cooperation of

people, local and international NGOs are crucial in controlling the various crimes as the crimes are closely intermingled with social, environmental, economical and drug problems. Among the crimes, drug related crime is the most important to handle and it has become the issue of national level. Myanmar has been striving at her utmost effort to control and wipe out the drug abuse and

drug trafficking in cooperation with Greater Mekong countries, Asean countries and other countries such as US, Russia, India, Bangladesh and Korea.

"Myanmar has laid 5-year project to combat human trafficking in person. Now 2017-2021 plan is being implemented with policy of cooperation, prevention, legal charging and rehabilitation. It is heartening to hear that

according to the annual report issued annually by America, Myanmar was graded Tier 3 in 2016 and promoted to Tier 2 Watch list in 2017," he explained.

Then, Union Minister for Home Affairs, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe awarded the Medal of Courage pertaining to the police performance to six police, Deputy Minister, Maj-Gen Aung Soe delivered Medals to 16 police and Police Maj-Gen Aung Win Oo gave the medals to 18 police.

Afterwards, Vice President U Myint Swe took the documentary photo together with the attendants to the ceremony and looked around the exhibition booths of Myanmar Police Force. The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, Man Win Khaing Than, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal, U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of Union Election Commission, U Hla Thein, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Ti Khun Myat, Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, Military officials, Deputy Ministers, diplomats, heads of departments and invited guests attended the ceremony.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Standing together with State Counsellor

### FROM PAGE-1

Similarly, Daw Yu Theingi Win from Shwepyithar Township said there is a tremendous amount of pressure on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from other countries and international organizations. "I want the world to know that Amay (Daw Aung San Suu Kyi) is with the people," she said. "That's why I have attended every event to support her."

Members of political parties and civil society also participated in yesterday's march. Responsible officials administered in clearing the roads for the safety of the marchers.

Ko Thura Soe, a member of the Humanitarian Group Myat Ku Thou, said they followed the event to provide medical attention for the marchers. "I think it's a good sign that we are hav-

ing events like these," he said. "I welcome the people gathering together to show their support for our leader." The public had held an event on 24 September in Yangon to show their unity and support on the State Counsellor's current actions and decisions. There have been similar events in other major cities and it is reported similar future events are planned. —Zaw Gyi ■



People march in support of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# Tourists flock to historical buildings in Mandalay

MANDALAY'S historical buildings are crowded with tourists to explore wonderful monument and Myanmar's architecture.

Tourists like to visit historical buildings in Mandalay such as Shweinbin Monastery, Shwenandaw Monastery, Thingazar Monastery as they appreciate wood carvings and structure. Tourists appreciate to capture view of novices and monasteries built with wood. Thingazar Monastery is one of them. King Min Don' donated this monastery to "Thingazar Sayartaw" in 1861 (MCY-1223) after building the royal city "Mandalay".

This historical monastery is located in west Daywun Quarter, Chan Mya Thar Zi Township. Delicate adornments, volute stairs, verandas and Buddha Images of Yadanarbon Era and wood carvings are conserved and tourists appreciate monuments. —Nwe Nadi (Myit Nge)■



A historical monastery being seen in Mandalay. **PHOTO: NWE NADI (MYIT NGE)**

## Manufacturing Myanmar 2017 to be held 20-22 October in Yangon

MANUFACTURING Myanmar 2017, an international trade fair for manufacturing machinery, equipment, materials and services, is due to take place from 20 October to 22 October at Myanmar Event Park in Yangon, according to the Myawady Daily's report.

Companies from China,

Thailand, Singapore, and China (Taipei) will take part in the three-day trade show, planning to showcase industrial products, modernised machinery and equipment, state-of-the-art technologies and solutions through over 100 booths.

One of the business-

men said it is his view that this trade fair is expected to serve as a bridge between the country's manufacturers and international suppliers.

Manufacturing Myanmar brings together technologies from well-known international brands and notable small-and-medium-sized enterprises.

The exhibition's aim is to meet the needs of local industries and manufacturers in the growing Myanmar market, according to an organiser.

Developers, buyers, decision makers from the makers of machine and tool and die makers have been invited to the event.—GNLM■

## Pilot project of school bus transport to be launched in Yangon very soon

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority said it is working to implement a pilot project to operate school bus transport in three selected schools in the city, planning to collect no more than Ks200 fare for the service, according to the Myawady Dai-

ly's Sunday edition.

The pilot will initially target students from Yankin TTC, Dagon Township Basic Education High School No. 1 and Kamayut Township Basic Education High School No. 2, with the authorities planning to begin the pilot

plan after Thidingyut holidays in October. The YRTA's spokesperson said the exact bus fare has yet been set but the fare is no more than Ks200 per head.

A bus conductor will be included in each school bus to help students. Students from

those basic education schools will benefit from the pilot in this phase. The transport authorities are currently arranging to designate the assembly area in special partnership with administration bodies of each school.—GNLM■

## Over 375,000 foreign day-trippers visit Myanmar via Tachilek border since April

MORE THAN 375,000 foreign day-trippers who entered Myanmar through Tachilek, Thai-Myanmar a border town, over the first-half of this year, according to the official figures released by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Between 1 April and

28 September of this year, the number of foreign day-trippers totalled 375, 940 and they visited significant places of Tachilek, including Talaw Market, Mahamyatmuni Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda, ethnic village and Chinese temples.

During the last week of September, over 14,400 international visitors arrived the country through Tachilek cross-border station, with the majority of them visited the town's famous destinations for one day trip.

The most of foreign travel-

lers are from Thailand as well as those from third countries.

International visitors continue to enter the country from all border points of entries to enjoy beautiful landscapes of the country and observe customs, traditions and lifestyle of ethnic people.—Shwe Khine■





A file photo shows people gather around machines at a jade mine in Pharkant, Kachin state. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Licences for over 170 gem mining blocks to expire in October

LICENCES for more than 170 gem mining blocks in Khamti in Sagaing Region, Mogoke in Mandalay Region and Lonekhin and Hpakan in Kachin State and Mongshu in Shan State are expiring this month, according to an announcement of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

At present, the aforementioned ministry has announced an environmental plan that will regard former mining blocks as vacant land.

No licences will be extended or renewed for mining operations at those sites and the Union and state governments will distribute power for future usage of that land.

Licences for more than

300 mining blocks for precious minerals and metals expired in September. And more than 2,500 gem mining blocks also shut down their operations due to the expiry of licences in August.

Mining licences for approximately 2,210 precious minerals and metals have expired between 1 April and the end of July. — Ko Htet ■

## DICA asking for suggestions to formulate and implement New Partnership law

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is asking for suggestions to develop a New Partnership Law to promote partnership businesses.

The related ministry has already requested opinions to formulate a Partnership Law which will be implemented

only after being submitted to office of the Union Attorney General, said U Than Aung Kyaw, joint secretary general of Myanmar Investment Commission.

The Myanmar Partnership Act of 1932 is currently being used and is being amended in Myanmar to be adaptable

with modern times.

After instituting this law, two or three people can establish partnership businesses without contributing shares.

Those with suggestions for this draft can contact DICA via [lawreform.dica.mm@gmail.com](mailto:lawreform.dica.mm@gmail.com) or [core.gov.mm@gmail.com](mailto:core.gov.mm@gmail.com). —GNLM ■

## Sino-Myanmar border trade shows slight decline in first half of this FY

Sino-Myanmar border trade at Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete and Keng Tung gates over the past six months amounted to about US\$2.76 billion, which is about \$4 million more than the same period last year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Of the five border gates, only the Chinshwehaw and

Kengtung land points of entry showed a decline in trade and the other three saw increase in trade. The decline in border trade between China and Myanmar is attributed to a slight decrease in the volume of imports.

Myanmar primarily exports agro products such as rice, peas, dried tea leaf, wa-

termelon, muskmelon, and mango to China and capital goods such as agricultural equipment are imported into the country. Between 1 April and 22 Sep in the current FY, border trade totaled \$3.39 billion, comprised of \$2 billion worth of exports and \$1.3 billion worth of imports. — Ko Htet ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့စဉ်: **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ် (၈)  
မျက်နှာပေါ်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar  
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

**"Sunday Special"**  
အချုပ် (၈) မျက်နှာ  
ပေါ်ပါသည်

**နေပြည်တော်**  
မြန်မာ့အလင်းစာတိုက်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့ (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊  
သတင်းနှင့်တရားရေးဌာန (ရုံးချုပ်)၊  
စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၉၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

**နေပြည်တော်**  
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)  
ဧည့်သည်စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၉၇၄၁၂၁၀၉

**ရန်ကုန်**  
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊  
ငါးထပ်ကြီးတန်းလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊  
ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၅၂၊ ၀၉၇၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

**မန္တလေး**  
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၂) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဌေး  
ရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

**တောင်ကြီး**  
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊  
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၇၂၁၄၄၇၇

**မကွေး**  
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊  
မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၉၃၂၇၇၁၂

**ကျိုင်းတုံ**  
မြို့သစ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းဆုံ၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊  
ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

**ကလေး**  
အောင်လေးရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊  
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

**မြင်ကြီး**  
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေပေါ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊  
မြင်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

**စစ်တွေ**  
ရမ္မာဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊  
မိမိကွက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျွန်းမြို့ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊  
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

**လားရှိုး**  
ဟူးမုန်းကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမုန်းဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊  
(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရွာ၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊  
လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

**ဇွတ်**  
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလေးကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊  
ဇွတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၉၉၄၂၁၀၃

**မော်လမြိုင်**  
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊  
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# 99th Annual Thadingyut Festival to be held in Pyinmanna

The 99th annual Thadingyut Festival of Pyinmanna will grandly be held for three days, 14th waxing, full moon and 1st waning of Thadingyut (4, 5 and 6 October) in Pyinmanna Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

There are total eight Buddha dhamma chanting teams that involved at the Pyinmanna Thadingyut Festival. Eight entertaining vehicles arranged by the eight Buddha dhamma chanting teams, Ywar Kauk, Yan Aung (1), Yan Aung (2), Nandaw, Patthana, Myo Oo, Tat Twin and Taung Tha teams will entertain around the town with the popular singers and actors invited from Yangon and Mandalay.

Every year, the said eight entertainment vehicles have



One of Dhamma chanting teams participating in the Annual Festival of Pyinmanna. **PHOTO: MNA**

visited and entertained in their respective wards on 14th waxing of Thadingyut and around

the town on full moon day of Thadingyut. On 1st waning of Thadingyut, the vehicles of

images from 22 ministries carrying 28 Buddha Images and with entertainment toured and

the entertainment vehicles visited along the specified route around the downtown. First, second, third and fourth prizes were also awarded entertainment vehicles every year.

In the earlier years, Pyinmanna Thadingyut Festival was held with entertainment of Myanmar Traditional Ground Dance (Myay Wine Dance) and Yein Dance (Myanmar popular dance). After many years, modern entertainments were presented with modern stage entertainment vehicles.

Many visitors from different places are expected to visit Thadingyut Festival of Pyinmanna for this year as the entertainments will be presented the whole nights.—Min Min Lat (Man University) ■

## 53rd Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force Day held in Sittway

The 53rd Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force Day was celebrated at U Ottama Hall in Sittway at 9pm yesterday. The event was attended by Chief Minister of Rakhine State government, U Nyi Pu, Speaker of State Hluttaw, U San Kyaw Hla, State Chief Justice, U Kyauk, State Ministers, State Police Major and police, town elders, retired police and invited guests.

At the ceremony the Chief Minister of State U Nyi Pu delivered an address pointing out the importance of the State Security as there are diverse ethnic and religion in the State. He urged the police force to perform their duties in line with the democratic practices, police manual, international norms of human rights and existing laws.

Then, Police Colonel of Ra-

khine State Police Force read the letter sent by Police Maj-Gen in honour of the Myanmar Police Force Day.

Later on, Certificate of Honour, Certificate of Good Service and Honorary Prize Money were given to two one-step-promoted police by Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, to three ward administrators who relentlessly collaborated with police by Speaker of State Hluttaw,

U San Kyaw Hla, to three town elders and ward administrators by State Chief Justice U Kyauk and to the police selected as State level Police Model by State Minister Col. Phone Tint.

Then, State Chief Minister observed the video coverage of police performance and exhibition booths and demonstration of riot management vehicle.—Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

## International Day for Older Persons held in Mandalay

The ceremony of International Day for Older Persons organized by Mandalay Region government was held yesterday 8am at the Mandalay City Hall, Mandalay. Present at the ceremony were Mandalay Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung and officials from Mandalay Region government, Region Hluttaw chairman U Aung Kyaw Oo, vice chairman Dr Khin Maung Htay and regional Hluttaw representatives and departmental officials, deputy commissioners of Mandalay Region, townships heads of general administration departments in Mandalay Region, head and officials of social welfare department, members of Myanmar women's affairs, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and social organizations and older persons aged 95 over in Mandalay District.

Mandalay Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung gave the opening speech. Mandalay Chief Minister and wife, Hluttaw chairman and members of Mandalay region government, departmental officials in the district and donors offered kinds and cash to 52 older persons aged 95 above who attend the ceremony. Then, offering cash for 235 older persons who didn't attend the ceremony were handed over to the respective heads of townships government administration departments.

At the ceremony, total 10.675 million of cash and kinds were offered to total 305 older persons.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

## Kawthoung Dhamma School students to celebrate candle light festival and fire balloons festival

Students of Dhamma School Foundation in Kawthoung Township will celebrate 3000 candle light festival and launching 1000 hot-air balloons festival on 1st waning of Thadingyut (6 October) on the platform of Shwe Pyi Thar Anandar Pagoda in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region. Kawthoung Township Dhamma School Foundation will celebrate the festival in cooperation with Dhamma Kaya Foundation of Thailand as a second time. Possession of 3000 Dhamma School students from various places of the town holding the candle light will gather and offered candle lights systematically to the Shwe Pyi Thar Anandar Pagoda platform. Then, 1000 hot-air balloons festival including donation of foods will be grandly continued.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■



Hundreds of people release lanterns into the sky in celebration of Thadingyut. **PHOTO: MNA**



## IS recaptures town in Syria's Homs amid large-scale counter-offensive

DAMASCUS — Islamic State (IS) militants have recaptured the town of Al-Qaryatayn in the eastern countryside of Homs Province in central Syria, pro-government al-Watan online daily reported Saturday evening.

The recapture of Al-Qaryatayn comes as part of a recent large-scale counter-offensive by IS in the Syrian desert.

The Syrian forces laid a siege to the town following its recapture by IS, al-Watan said.

The Syrian army dislodged IS militants from the town in April.

The recent attacks from IS aim to release the pressure on its fighters in the eastern province of Deir al-Zour, where the army is tightening the noose on the terror group.

On Thursday, IS militants launched an attack and cut off the road to Deir al-Zour, before the army recaptured it on Friday.

The series of attacks reflect IS determination to survive at a time when it has become the target of international powers.

It is feared that IS may launch more attacks in the desert region, which is not far from the Palmyra road linking the capital Damascus with Deir al-Zour.—Xinhua ■

## Hezbollah says Kurdish vote a step toward wider Mideast partition



Kurds celebrate to show their support for the independence referendum in Duhok, Iraq, on 26 September 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIRUT — The powerful Lebanese group Hezbollah said on Saturday that an Iraqi Kurdish independence vote marked a first step toward the partition of the Middle East, warning that this would lead to “internal wars” and must be opposed.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, head of the Iran-backed group, said events in northern Iraq, where Kurds overwhelmingly voted for independence on Monday, were a threat to the whole region and not just Iraq and neighbouring states with Kurd-

ish populations. “It will open the door to partition, partition, partition,” Nasrallah said. He added that “partition means taking the region to internal wars whose end and time frame is known only to God”. Nasrallah noted that his group’s arch enemy Israel had come out in support of Kurdish statehood and described the referendum as part of a US-Israeli plot to carve up the region.

The United States came out in opposition to the vote, along with major European states and neighbouring countries Turkey

and Iran. The government of Syria, where Kurdish groups have established autonomous regions, also opposed the referendum.

Nasrallah was speaking to supporters on the eve of Ashura, when Shi’ites commemorate the slaying of the Prophet Mohammad’s grandson, Imam Hussein, at Kerbala in 680 AD.

Hezbollah, a political and military movement, is a major player in the Syrian conflict, where it has deployed thousands of fighters in support of President Bashar al-Assad.

Hezbollah fighters are currently fighting along with other Iran-backed militias and the Syrian army against Islamic State militants in eastern Syria.

“Daesh is at its end. It is a matter of time in Iraq and Syria,” Nasrallah said, using an Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

He said counter attacks mounted by Islamic State in eastern Syria in the last two days were expected as the group was besieged, adding that it was “incapable of recovering ground”. — Reuters ■

## More than half of schools in Boko Haram's region are shut, UNICEF says

ABUJA — More than half the schools in the state at the epicentre of Nigeria’s conflict with Islamist militant group Boko Haram are still closed, the United Nations’ children agency said on Friday, as the insurgency drags into its ninth year.

The lack of schools could continue to fuel Boko Haram or similar movements in the future as it means young people in the restive northeast region have few prospects, experts say.

The conflict with Boko Haram, whose name roughly trans-

lates as “Western education is forbidden” in the Hausa language that is widely spoken in northern Nigeria, has killed more than 20,000 people since 2009.

It has embroiled the region in one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises, with at least 10.7 million people in need of assistance, according to the United Nations.

“In addition to devastating malnutrition, violence and an outbreak of cholera, the attacks on schools are in danger of creating a lost generation of children, threatening their and the countries’ fu-

ture,” Justin Forsyth, a deputy director for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), said in a statement.

More than 57 per cent of schools are shut in Borno state, where most of the conflict and resulting crisis have taken place, as the new academic year begins, the statement said.

More than 2,295 teachers have been killed, at least 19,000 displaced and almost 1,400 schools destroyed, UNICEF said.

Forsyth later said in an interview that three million children in

the northeast required some form of education, adding that some attended rudimentary schools.

He said Borno state government had returned about 750,000 children to school, but gave no details about the period of time over which they returned.

On the issue of educating children who had been recruited to fight in the conflict, Forsyth said military and state government officials had agreed to the release of 600 children and mothers next week.

“This is also a process of re-

habilitation because these children have been traumatised,” he said.

Despite aid agencies’ efforts to set up schools for children in the northeast, particularly those displaced by the insurgency, UNICEF said it has only received three-fifths of the total funding it needs for 2017.

Combined with climate change taking its toll in recent years on farming, a mainstay of the region, the lack of schooling has left many without job opportunities.— Reuters ■



# Myanmar Police Force and Rule of Law

Khin Maung Oo

IN all towns and villages across the nation, Myanmar Police Forces are being found taking active participation in public-oriented social activities. Not only performing the tasks of prevention and suppression of crimes but also contributing their voluntary labor in social events for the benefit of regional populace can bring about people's trust and reliance.

In democratic nations, police forces take the responsibility of tranquility and rule of law in their respective regions. In doing so, people's trust and reliance is of great necessity, so police forces were found to have changed the system of the people's police force which stands for the public. Myanmar Police Force was founded in 1889 under the colonial rule

as Burma Military Police, Burma Civil Police and Rangoon Town Police. In 1942, Burma Police Force was renamed as Myanmar Police Forces, it was learnt. In 1948 when the country gained its Independence, police called “ပုလိပ်” in Myanmar was renamed as “ပု” in Myanmar. In 1964, it was re-founded as People's Police Force, thence in 1994 renamed as Myanmar Police Force.

Police Force was born under the colonial rule but it was found to have changed its set-up with the changing political systems as public-orientated community policing. In moving on the way for the democratic transmission police forces had some confrontations with the people. As there were criticisms over those confrontations, reforms were made by conducting trainings on controlling mobs. Being ser-

vice personnel performing duties around the clock, in contact with people regardless of race and religion, Myanmar Police Forces may have some weakness.

Myanmar Police Forces are required to make their concerted efforts to become qualified with capacities and skills in performances of service, organization, administration and enforcement of rule of law.

In a time when criminals and violators of laws are increasing, it is not an easy task for police forces to perform their duties in accord with rules and law. In addition to the tasks of prevention and suppression of crimes, their performances of regional peace and stability, rule of law, prevention and protection of the danger of drugs and participation in public-orientated social events must be acknowledged.

Once in the past, police were despised and criticized with pejorative words as they used to arrive at crime-scenes at belated time. Police routines include crime prevention, search and arrest.

Now that police forces are performing their duties by stand-by watch, sentry and patrol posts around the clock, offences, crimes and criminals can be said to be alleviated. Had people participated in preventing and suppressing crimes hand in hand with police forces, regional peace and tranquility can be achieved for sure.

Accordingly, in such a period of democratic transition Myanmar Police Forces are practically being found to have changed together with the people. We wish our MPF perform the duties of rule of law and regional tranquility more and more in more modernized ways. ■

# Factors affecting inward foreign direct investment

Kyaw Win Tin

FOREIGN direct investment (FDI) is an investment made by a company or individual in one country in business interests in another country, in the form of either establishing business operations or acquiring business assets in the other country such as ownership or controlling interest in a foreign company.

Developing countries emerging economies and countries in transition due to advantages related to FDI have liberalized their FDI regime and followed best policies to attract investment. It has been recognized that the maximizing benefits of FDI for the host country can be significant including technologies spillovers, human capital formation support, enhancement of competitive business environment, contribution to international trade integration and improvement of enterprise development. FDI can also support not only economic benefits including improvement of environment and social condition but also alleviating poverty of the nation.

There are two concepts of foreign direct investment (FDI) and two matching ways of measuring it. One is that FDI is a particular form of the flow of capital across international boundaries. It gives rise to a particular form of international assets for the home countries, specifically, the value of holdings in entities, typically corporations, controlled by a home-country resident or in which a home-country resident holds a certain share of the voting rights. The other concept of direct investment is that it is a set of economic activities or operations carried out in a host country by firms controlled or partly controlled by firms in some other (home) country. These activities are, for example, production,

employment, sales, the purchase and use of intermediate goods and fixed capital, and the carrying out of research.

The former of these two concepts is the one reflected in balance of payments accounts. The measures of it, flows and stocks of direct investment, are the only virtually ubiquitous quantitative indicators of FDI. However, if the effects of FDI stem from the activity of the foreign-owned firms in their host countries, the balance-of-payments measures have many defects for any examination of these impacts.

The FDI is also beneficial to the overall

market for its products. For the benefits to the home country is the creation of jobs and inward flow of capital. Human resources in the home country have access to better technology and labour skills, thus improving their employability factor. The overall quality of the goods produced in the home country improves as the local produces have to now compete with the foreign investors. Increased mutual inflow of FDI can reduce the current account deficit of the home country or even result in a current account surplus.

The main factors that affect foreign

relative skilled labour demand is likely to vary across countries especially depending on relative skill abundance of the recipient economy as compared to the investor. Therefore multinationals will invest in host countries with a combination of low wages but high labour productivity and skills.

Tax rates: Tax competition for FDI is a reality in today's global environment. Investors routinely compare tax burdens in different locations, as do policy makers with comparisons typically made across countries that are similar in terms of location and market size. Therefore large multinationals used to seek to invest in countries with lower corporation tax rates.

Transport and infrastructure: A key factor in the desirability of investment are the transport costs and levels of infrastructure. A country may have low labour costs, but if there is then high transport costs to get the goods on to the world market this is a drawback. Transport infrastructure, foreign direct investment and economic growth are co-integrated, indicating the presence of long-run equilibrium relationship between them. Size of economy (Potential for growth): Foreign direct investment is often targeted to selling goods directly to the country involved in attracting the investment. And the size of population and scope for economic growth will be important for attracting investment. Specifically FDI can appear to go up in country where customers put higher emphasis on product cost rather than product performance and features and overall firms' marketing practices and buyers' behavior in a country are very likely to draw the attention of multinational enterprises considering investment in that country.

The main factors that affect foreign direct investments are wages rate, labour skills, tax rates, transport and infrastructure, size of economy (potential for growth), political stability (Property rights), commodities, access to free trade areas and exchange rate.

economy invests in a foreign enterprise using resources including business capital, technology and managerial skills. One of the benefits of long-term FDI is that the host country achieves a higher financial status compared to the home country. The use of advanced technology means that the host country has easy access to higher technology assets, thus improving its operating efficiency and productivity. FDI can lead of creation of jobs in higher skill category for the host country, which can be translated into better employment opportunities and competitive skills in a globalized job market. Other benefits of FDI for the host country is larger global

direct investments are wages rate, labour skills, tax rates, transport and infrastructure, size of economy (potential for growth), political stability (Property rights), commodities, access to free trade areas and exchange rate.

Wage rates: A major incentive for a multinational to invest abroad is to out-source labour intensive production to countries with lower wages. Due to the fact that wage rate has a significant effect on attracting FDI; it is possible that a country would lower it wages as a way of enticing new foreign direct investment away from other developing countries.

Labour skills: the effect of FDI on

SEE PAGE 9



## Myanmar observes International Day of the Older Persons

INTERNATIONAL Day of the Older Persons was observed at Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

“With the aim of supporting the social lives of the senior citizens and providing regular income for them, the government is providing a social pension of K 10,000 from its coffers for all the nonagenarians and above in the entire country,” said Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe at the ceremony.

Currently, 39,440 elder persons are enjoying the pension, and the ministry has further plans to increase the population of senior citizens entitled to enjoy the financial assistance, he said.

Like many other ASEAN countries, Myanmar’s aged population is increasing rapidly. Of the country’s population of 53 million 4.9 million or 9.2 percent are 60 and above. Roughly, we can say that one in eleven is a senior citizen. This highlights the vitality of social and health care for the growing aged population.

The system of caring the older persons through voluntary homes for the aged began over 100 years ago in 1915. At present, 82 recognized homes for the aged



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko presents medicines and cash donations to an aged person. **PHOTO: MNA**

are protecting over 2700 older persons. The government is also providing financial support for the homes.

Then the message of the UN secretary general was read out by the UNFPA resident representative. The Union minister presented K 2 million for the oldest man and woman of the country. Senior Citizen U Aye Thein on behalf of the two accepted the cash assistance.

Daw Naw Maw Htoo, who also is a senior citizen, of the aged care group, explained the community-based old aged protection program.

Union ministers Thura U Aung Ko, U Thein Swe, Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Naing Thet Lwin, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and officials presented medicines and cash donations for the aged persons at the ceremony. Myanmar News Agency

## All-inclusive healthcare prioritized in Rakhine since 2012

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe discussed the World Bank-aided healthcare programs, nutrition programs and healthcare undertakings in Rakhine State with officials of the global financial body at his office in Yangon yesterday.

At his meeting with Vice President of WB for East Asia and Pacific Ms Victoria Kwakwa and party, the Union minister said that since 2012, the all-inclusive healthcare undertakings in Rakhine State have become a priority task.

When the persons arriving in the other country enter Myanmar under bilateral agreement, the government will undertake healthcare, nutrition, child vac-

cination, environmental sanitation, programs for them. The government will also provide rural healthcare centers, and 16-bed emergency hospitals as and when necessary. All these undertakings will be carried out as priority cases in cooperation with the World Bank.

The Union minister invited WB involvement in collecting food consumption data as a base for national nutrition program, heightening public awareness on health and raising occupational competency.

Ms Victoria Kwakwa said WB has agreed the Union minister’s discussions in principle and promised further aid. Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe holds talks with Vice President of WB for East Asia and Pacific Ms Victoria Kwakwa and party. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Factors affecting inward foreign direct investment

### FROM PAGE 8

**Political stability/property rights:** Foreign direct investment has an element of risk. Countries with an uncertain political situation will be a major disincentive. Also economic crisis can discourage investment. And FDI related to political stability is the level of corruption and trust in institutions especially judiciary and the extent of law and order.

**Commodities:** capital inflows and volatile commodity price movements pose significant policy challenges for developing countries. One reason for foreign investment is the existence of commodities. Large capital inflows and rising commodity prices have strongly affected macroeconomic quantities as well as prices. Commodity prices freight costs and other indicators are often pointed to as potential gauges of underlying economic activity.

**Clustering effects:** Foreign firms often are attracted to invest in similar areas to existing FDI. The reason is that they can benefit from external economics of scale-growth of service industries and transport links. Also, there will be greater confidence to invest in areas with a good track record. The government may apply its policy support to attract FDI for high tech clustering and the FDI dominated cluster may start the three interrelated elements: (1) a pragmatic goal of government support: (2) complementarities with the international leading firms in the market, technology and equipment linkages: (3) Sustainable capacity of technological learning to drive local developments.

**Access to free trade areas:** One of empirical results indicates that there is a positive relationship between participation in multilateral agreements and FDI inflow into the Asia-Pacific re-

gion. AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) is unique in that large increases in FDI and trade in the region have led to the agreement instead of the other way around. AFTA is projected to significantly boost GDP growth in the region. To the extent the AFTA increases GDP growth, FDI flows into the region will be enhanced as well.

**Exchange rate:** One of the most factors affecting FDI is the exchange rate. Exchange rate movements and exchange rate uncertainty appear to be important factors investors take into consideration in their decision to invest abroad. Much of the literature on exchange rate movements and FDI concentrates on two issues: level of the exchange rate and the volatility of the exchange rate. The level of exchange rate may influence FDI because depreciation of the host country currency against the home currency increases the relative wealth of foreigners

thereby increasing the attractiveness of the host country for FDI as firms are able to acquire assets in the host country relatively cheaply. Thus a depreciation of the host currency should increase FDI into the host country and conversely an appreciation of the host currency should decrease FDI.

The theoretical arguments linking volatility to FDI have and risk aversion argument. According to production flexibility arguments, exchange rate volatility increases foreign investment because firm can adjust the use of one of their variable factors following the realization of nominal or real shock for developed countries. According to the risk aversion theory, FDI decreases as exchange rate volatility increases in developing countries. This is because higher volatility in the exchange rate lower the certainty equivalent expected exchange rate. Certainty equiv-

alent levels are used in the expected profit functions of firms that make investment decision today in order to realize profits in future periods. A foreign direct investment in a country with a high degree of exchange rate volatility will have a riskier stream of profit. Therefore, most of literature suggest that a weak exchange rate in the host country can attract more FDI because it will be cheaper for the multinational to purchase assets. However exchange rate volatility could discourage investment because investors are concerned with future expected profits.

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# Merkel allies fret over former East Germany's rightward shift

BERLIN — The premiers of two regions where the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party made big gains in Sunday's national election warned that Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives must change course to stop the former East Germany's rightward drift.

Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) suffered big losses across much of Germany in the election, in which the AfD, with its anti-immigration message, became the first far-right party in the national parliament in over half a century.

The calls for a rightward shift add to the challenge Merkel faces as she tries to assemble an already tricky three-party coalition including the left-wing Greens, the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) and her own increasingly fractious party.

Prospects for a three-way pact nonetheless improved on Saturday when the Greens voted at a special congress to start exploratory talks on a deal despite reservations about the other parties' harder-line immigration policies.

The AfD's surge prompted soul-searching within the conservative camp, with many blaming Merkel's 2015 decision to open the doors to over a million migrants fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa for the far-right's surge.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel. PHOTO: REUTERS

The conservative premiers of Saxony, where the AfD topped polls, and of Saxony-Anhalt called for the CDU to move to the right to stem the losses.

"People want Germany to stay Germany," said Stanislaw Tillich, premier of Saxony, in an interview with the Funke newspaper network. "They don't want parallel societies and rising criminality." Rainer Haseloff, premier of Saxony-Anhalt, echoed this, telling newspaper Die Welt: "People want to know how Germany will preserve its identity." These calls align the two influential state leaders more closely with

the CDU's Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), which wants a hard immigration ceiling.

While both premiers stuck to Merkel's line that a firm upper limit would be impractical, their calls for the state to take a firmer hand with immigrants could strengthen the CSU's hand as the sister parties attempt to thrash out a common position ahead of coalition talks with the FDP and Greens. Some warn that a black (CDU)-yellow (FDP)-Green "Jamaica coalition", risks heightening a sense of alienation among voters in the

former East Germany.

Given the losses all three parties had suffered in the East, "a Jamaica coalition would be seen as a West German coalition in the east," Green MP Canan Bayram said.

But Merkel, in a podcast released on Saturday, warned against treating Germany's poorer east as a homogenous bloc. "We see these fears of globalisation, of anonymity, about old-age care everywhere, including in the west," she said. "We have to get people listening, to win people over by solving their problems. That's my task."—Reuters ■

# Use of small tactical nuclear weapons proposed in US policy review

WASHINGTON — The development and deployment of small tactical nuclear weapons have been proposed during an ongoing review of US nuclear policy by the administration of President Donald Trump, a congressional source said Sunday.

Adoption of the proposal would mark a major departure from the previous administration of President Barack Obama that sought "a world without nuclear weapons."

Tactical nuclear weapons of several kilotons are seen as usable as their destructive power

is limited compared with conventional nuclear weapons. But it remains uncertain whether Washington will employ such an option, given strong opposition within the US government, the source said.

The proposal has emerged at a time when the United States is struggling to deal with the growing nuclear threat from North Korea.

Trump ordered the crafting of the Nuclear Posture Review in January, the first since one under the Obama administration in 2010.

The US government is planning to complete the review by the end of this year, taking new security conditions into account.

Discussions on the NPR are led by the US Defence Department and the Energy Department. According to the source, some have voiced support for the development and deployment of small tactical nuclear weapons in view of North Korea as well as Russia, which has unveiled its policy to strengthen tactical nuclear forces. With guided small tacti-

cal nuclear weapons, the United States could destroy nuclear facilities in North Korea while curbing radiation damage, the source added.

On the introduction of small tactical nuclear weapons, a US government official said there are a number of options to build a flexible nuclear posture.

The same official also said it cannot be denied that the promotion of tactical nuclear weapons in the upcoming policy review could send a message that runs counter to disarmament.—Kyodo News ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Man kills two people at French train station before being shot dead

MARSEILLE, (France) — A French soldier shot dead a man after he stabbed and killed two passers-by at Marseille's main train station on Sunday, the French interior ministry said, in what police sources called a "likely terrorist act".

Police sources said the suspect had shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest) as he carried out his attack. No further details were immediately available. Police had cordoned off the area and an operation was underway. French interior minister Gerard Collomb said on Twitter he was heading to Marseilles. —Reuters ■

### US-made drone shot down by Houthi missile in Yemen's capital

SANAA — A US-made pilotless plane was shot down by a Houthi missile north of Yemen's capital Sanaa on Sunday morning, Houthi officials and residents said. The plane, seen by a Xinhua photographer at the scene, was very big and divided into two parts before it caught on fire.

"The drone, General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper, was shot down by a guided missile fired from our Rocketry Force," said a statement by the Houthi group, which controls the capital Sanaa.

—Xinhua ■

### Tunisia rescues 140 migrants off its coast

TUNIS — The Tunisian navy rescued 98 Tunisians fleeing to Europe when their boat started to sink off Kerkenah on the south-east coast late on Saturday, the national guard said.

Separately, the army said it had arrested 43 illegal migrants rescued from four boats off Zarzis, also on the southeast coast.

Tunisia has been praised for its democratic progress after a 2011 uprising against autocrat Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali but successive governments have failed to create jobs for young people, some of whom head illegally to Europe to seek work. —Reuters ■



# Weak columns, extra floors led to Mexico school collapse, experts say

MEXICO CITY — A Mexico City school that collapsed in a powerful earthquake last week killing 19 children buckled under the heavy weight of floors added over the years with scant steel support, according to experts and witnesses.

The tragedy at the privately owned Enrique Rebsamen school in southern Mexico City, in which seven adults also died, has become a symbol of the devastation inflicted by the country's 7.1 magnitude quake, the worst in a generation. At least 355 people died in the capital and surrounding states.

"The building was badly designed, poorly calculated and poorly constructed," said Alfredo Perez, a 52-year old civil engineer who dashed to the school shortly after the 19 September quake to

help rescue efforts. "The reinforced concrete doesn't comply with specifications in construction regulations."

Alongside rescue workers, Perez said, he pulled bodies from the rubble. Then he sat in one of the undamaged classrooms and drew plans detailing potential design failures in the collapsed building.

Reuters showed those plans to six structural engineers along with Reuters' photos of the ruined structure. They independently concluded that the structure's columns lacked sufficient steel rebar to support all four floors and prevent them from snapping in such a powerful earthquake.

While the quantity of steel required under Mexico's stringent post-1985 building code



People put floral wreaths for the students of the Enrique Rebsamen school after an earthquake in Mexico city, Mexico, on 22 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

varies depending on the size of structure, all six engineers said the building's columns were built with too little steel to withstand strong quakes.

Perez and another engineer specified that columns appeared to have less than half the required amount of steel reinforcement.

They base their view on the number of vertical and horizontal steel rebar rods in the columns, which are visible in Reuters photos along with the measurements in Perez's plans. "It comes down to the lack of steel," said Troy Morgan, a New York-based senior managing engineer at Exponent,

an engineering consulting firm.

Since a 1985 quake toppled hundreds of buildings in Mexico City, planning officials developed a strict building code at the forefront of international standards for quake-proofing that raised the proportion of required steel reinforcement. —Reuters

## Brazil's Lula extends lead in 2018 vote despite graft conviction

BRASILIA — Former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva extended his lead in the run-up to the 2018 presidential election despite a corruption conviction that could bar him from running, a poll showed on Saturday.

The Datafolha survey published in the Folha de S.Paulo newspaper showed Lula winning at least 35 per cent support from those polled in a first-round vote, up from about 30 percent in a June poll. Two potential competitors, former environment minister Marina Silva and right-wing congressman Jair Bolsonaro, trailed with 13 per cent to 17 per cent of voting intentions. Lula would beat all potential contenders in a runoff vote, the poll said, expect in an unlikely contest against Sergio Moro, the judge who convicted him of corruption in July. Moro has repeatedly denied being a candidate. Millions of Brazilians were lifted from poverty dur-

ing Lula's 2003-2010 presidency. Many detractors blame him for a political graft that flourished under the Workers' Party, calling his bribery conviction the end to his political career.

Lula may not be eligible to run if his conviction is upheld by a higher court. Datafolha showed 26 per cent of voters would vote for a candidate endorsed by Lula in such a scenario. Sao Paulo state governor Geraldo Alckmin and Sao Paulo city mayor Joao Doria, both from the Brazilian Social Democracy Party (PSDB), had 8 per cent of voting intentions each. Lula was found guilty last month and sentenced to nearly 10 years in prison for accepting 3.7 million reais worth of bribes from engineering firm OAS, the amount of money prosecutors said the company spent refurbishing a beach apartment for Lula in return for his help winning contracts with state oil company Petroleo Brasileiro. —Reuters ■

## Puerto Rico governor says relief arriving to storm-ravaged rural areas

SAN JUAN, (Puerto Rico) — Puerto Rico's governor says efforts to restore cell service, gas and other basic needs to the island's rural residents are progressing, even as many in those towns report feeling forgotten.

"I recognise that right now, whether it's the gas line or the ATM line, we're limited," Governor Ricardo Rossello told Reuters in an interview on Saturday at the Puerto Rico Convention Center, the government's temporary headquarters.

"But if you see the numbers," he said, "you see there is a steady path to improvement."

More than half of Puerto Rico's 3.4 million people lack access to drinking water 11 days after Hurricane Maria hit the US territory, and 95 per cent remain without power, according to the US Defence Department. Some are expected to be without power for months.

But on Saturday, Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) officials reported that a third of the island's telecommunications network

had been restored, and some 765 gas stations - well over half - had fuel, though it was not clear how much.

Maria, the most powerful storm to strike Puerto Rico in nearly 90 years, has destroyed roads, making it difficult to get food, water and fuel around the island.

In the rural towns of Salinas and Fajardo, the vast majority of locals reported having no cell service on Friday and Saturday, and said they had not seen local or federal officials in the area.

In Fajardo, some 400 people waited on line to enter a Wal-Mart store Saturday morning, while gas lines stretched more than a mile in some parts of town.

"We haven't seen a government official or anything, no FEMA, no military, no local government," said Daniel Santiago, 51, of Fajardo, as he waited in line to get into a food store.

Rossello, though, challenged the idea that the government is failing to reach rural towns - a perception he says might be

fuelled by a "severe limitation with communication."

"I personally went to Salinas with seven National Guard trucks full of food and water," he said, conceding that "you can always find somebody that hasn't received resources, and I recognise that."

Government response to the disaster has become a focal point in recent days, with US President Donald Trump facing harsh criticism from many Puerto Ricans and leaders, including San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz, for failing to deploy US military resources more quickly.

Trump fired back at Cruz in a tweet, accusing her of "poor leadership" and saying some Puerto Ricans "want everything to be done for them when it should be a community effort."

The tweet offended some Puerto Ricans, but Rossello refused to criticise the president.

"My only focus right now is to make sure the people of Puerto Rico are well," Rossello said. "I'm not paying attention to social media." —Reuters ■



# Dunkirk-style evacuation as Vanuatu volcano pollutes drinking water

SYDNEY — Vanuatu has launched a Dunkirk-style evacuation on the northern island of Ambae as a flotilla of boats rescues islanders from an erupting volcano.

The eruption has polluted many of the island's water sources leaving thousands of people in need of safe drinking water, Red Cross delegate Joe Cropp told Reuters by phone on Sunday.

"Water is crucial," he said. "It's important to get on top of it right away."

The Manaro Voui volcano, the nation's largest, was seen hurling steam and rocks into the air by New Zealand volcanologist Brad Scott who flew over the volcano on Saturday.

"Maybe about every 8 to 10 seconds there was an explosion, throwing lava bombs up maybe 50 to 100 metres above the crater and there's also two small lava flows that are flowing across the island into the lake as well," he said in an interview with Radio NZ published on Sunday.

Crowds of islanders



Smoke and ash emanates from the Manaro Voui volcano located on Vanuatu's northern island Ambae in the South Pacific, on 1 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

from at least three evacuation points on the island have begun boarding a flotilla of ships including ferries, canoes and commercial vessels for the safety of surrounding islands Maewo, Pentecost and Santo.

The Vanuatu Government wants all 11,000 islanders evacuated by 6

October.

Australia sent amphibious Bay Class landing ship HMAS Choules on Saturday to help move the population, and it is expected to arrive by the middle of the week.

Some islanders are flying out while others have already moved to stay with friends or relatives in the

capital, Port Vila.

More than 6000 people have gone to emergency shelters on the South Pacific island in preparation for the total evacuation.

Manaro Voui stirred to life in September, threatening island residents with burning ash, toxic gas and acid rain.

The volcano is

crowned by crater lakes.

One of them, Lake Boui, is directly on top of the eruption making it dangerously explosive and posing the deadly threat of a lahar: a boiling mud flow down the side of the mountain, Macquarie University volcanologist Christopher Firth told Reuters by telephone on Saturday. —Reuters ■

## Britain is working on plan for disorderly Brexit, May says

MANCHESTER, (England) — British government departments are working on a plan for what to do if Brexit talks with the European Union collapse with no deal, Prime Minister Theresa May said on Sunday.

May, speaking on BBC television, said she had the impression that her speech in Florence had given momentum to Brexit talks and that she hoped to have a divorce deal by March 2019.

"Government is working on what would need to be put in place if there is no deal, what we are also working on is ensuring we get a deal, get the right deal for the United Kingdom," May said. "Government departments are looking to see what changes are needed, what we need to put in place." —Reuters ■

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## Colombia and ELN rebels begin first-ever ceasefire

BOGOTA — Colombia and the Marxist ELN rebels began a ceasefire on Sunday aimed at generating goodwill during complicated talks to end a half-century war that has killed hundreds of thousands.

The truce, the first with the National Liberation Army (ELN), will run through 9 January and may be extended if it is respected.

"This is a very important step, a step that I hope will be the first in a process that will also lead the ELN to hand in their weapons," President Juan Manuel Santos said ahead of the armistice.

The ELN is in talks in Ecuador to end its part in the conflict. Since negotiations began in February, the ELN has continued

to take hostages for ransom and in recent weeks stepped up bomb attacks on oil companies.

Defense Minister Luis Carlos Villegas warned that, although Colombia's military would avoid confrontations with the ELN during the ceasefire, it would go after the group if it engaged in criminal activities such as illegal mining and drug trafficking.

"We'll respect the ceasefire in the sense that we won't confront the ELN, looking for contact and combat. We hope they do the same," Villegas told Reuters in a recent interview.

"Our mission to pursue crime will be maintained throughout the nation without exception." Despite the ceasefire,



Rebels of Colombia's Marxist National Liberation Army (ELN) arrive in a boat, in the northwestern jungles, Colombia, on 30 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the road to a definitive peace accord will be long and complex. The ELN is considered hard-line in its ideology and was not known for compromise during past attempts at peace.

Inspired by the Cuban revolution and the Liberation Theology beliefs of

the Catholic priests who founded it in 1964, the 2,000-strong ELN has sought an end to the war before, holding talks in Cuba and Venezuela between 2002 and 2007.

Both attempts collapsed with little progress.

The ELN is considered a terrorist group by

the United States and European Union for engaging in kidnapping, assassinations, drug trafficking, attacks on economic infrastructure and extortion of oil and mining multi-nationals.

During the ceasefire, the insurgent group has pledged to suspend hostage taking, attacks on roads and oil installations, the use of landmines and the recruitment of minors. In turn, the government agreed to improve protection for community leaders and conditions for about 450 jailed rebels.

Santos's government signed a peace deal with the larger Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in 2016 after negotiations in Havana, Cuba that lasted four years. —Reuters ■



## Polish cut in retirement age comes into force, bucking European trend

WARSAW — Poland lowers its retirement age on Sunday, a costly election promise by the ruling conservatives which goes against a European trend of gradually increasing the pension age as people live longer and stay more healthy. Lowering the age to 60 for women and 65 for men is popular in particular among supporters of the governing right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) party, and reverses an increase to 67 approved in 2012 by the former centrist government. It is seen as having a limited immediate impact on the economy, which is booming, but might put pressure on state budgets in the future. The move comes at a time when unemployment in Poland has fallen to its lowest level since the transition from communism in

the early 1990s, and could increase the pressure on wages which are already growing at their fastest pace in five years.

“The Polish labour market faces increasingly limited access to workers,” said Rafal Benecki, a Warsaw-based economist covering central Europe at the ING Bank.

Poland’s population of 38 million is among the most rapidly ageing in the European Union. “The government is throwing away the most effective tool to increase the labour market participation rate,” Benecki said. The state pension agency ZUS has estimated that 331,000 people could decide to take advantage of the option to retire earlier, which would amount to 2.0 per cent of Poland’s 16.3 million workers.—Reuters ■



A worker cleans the window of a high rise office building in Gdynia, Poland, in 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Construction cranes are seen on a residential building project behind homes in London, Britain, on 26 October 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## UK economy cools in three months to September but outlook better

LONDON — Growth across Britain’s private sector cooled slightly in the three months to September, an industry survey showed on Sunday, although companies were mostly upbeat about their prospects for the next three months.

The Confederation of British Industry’s monthly indicator of output for manufacturers, retailers and services companies slipped to +11, down from

+14 for the three months to August.

“Growth in the economy has held steady through the summer, although at a slightly slower pace than expected by many firms,” CBI chief economist Rain Newton-Smith said.

The expansion eased in factories and fizzled out in business and professional services firms, the CBI said. Distribution was the only sector to experience faster growth, following a

strong performance from retailers.

Despite the mixed readings, overall output expectations for the next three months edged up to +18, up two points from August.

The CBI survey is unlikely to sway Bank of England rate-setters who have said interest rates are likely to rise soon, as long as the economy continues growing and prices keep rising.

Last week the Office for National Statistics said Britain’s economy expanded at its slowest annual pace since 2013 in the 12 months following last year’s Brexit vote.

A majority of economists polled by Reuters last week expect the BoE will hike rates in November, though most of them also thought it would be a mistake to increase them now from a record low 0.25 per cent.—Reuters ■

## Defiant Catalans vote on split from Spain despite crackdown

BARCELONA — Spanish riot police burst into polling stations across Catalonia on Sunday, confiscating ballot boxes and voting papers to try to halt a banned referendum on a split from Spain as Madrid asserted its authority over the rebel region. Police broke down doors to force entry into voting stations as defiant Catalans shouted ‘Out with the occupying forces!’ and sang the anthem of the wealthy northeastern region. In one incident in Barcelona, police fired rubber bullets.

Officers in riot gear forcibly removed people

from a polling station in Girona and Catalan firefighters protected voters by standing between them and national police.

The referendum, declared illegal by Spain’s central government, has thrown the country into its worst constitutional crisis in decades and deepened a centuries-old rift between Madrid and Barcelona.

Despite the police action, hundreds-strong queues of people formed in cities and villages throughout the region to cast their votes. At one Barcelona polling station, elderly people and those with chil-

dren entered first. “I’m so pleased because despite all the hurdles they’ve put up, I’ve managed to vote,” said Teresa, a 72-year-old pensioner in Barcelona who had stood in line for six hours. The ballot will have no legal status as it has been blocked by Spain’s Constitutional Court and Madrid for being at odds with the 1978 constitution.

A minority of around 40 per cent of Catalans support independence, polls show, although a majority want to hold a referendum on the issue. The region of 7.5 million people has an economy larger than that of

Portugal. However much voting takes place, a “yes” result is likely, given that most of those who support independence are expected to cast ballots while most of those against it are not.

Organisers had asked voters to turn out before dawn, hoping for large crowds to be the world’s first image of voting day.

“This is a great opportunity. I’ve waited 80 years for this,” said 92-year-old Ramon Jordana, a former taxi driver waiting to vote in Sant Pere de Torello, a town in the foothills of the Pyrenees and a pro-independence bastion.

The Catalan government said voters could print out ballot papers at home and lodge them at any polling station not closed down by police.

Elsewhere, people were not able to access the ballot boxes. In a town in Girona province where Catalan leader Carles Pu-

igdemont was due to vote, Civil Guard police smashed glass panels to open the door and search for ballot boxes. Puigdemont voted in a different town in the province. He accused Spain of unjustified violence in stopping the vote and said it created a dreadful image of Spain.—Reuters ■

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017 to 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017 (Thadingyut Public Holiday), Loading, UnLoading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.



# 'Let's Make a Deal' host Monty Hall dead at 96

LOS ANGELES — Monty Hall, one of the most popular game show hosts in American television history as he presided over a throng of outrageously costumed and nearly delirious contestants on "Let's Make a Deal" for almost three decades, died on Saturday at age 96, his son said.

Richard Hall said his father died at home in Beverly Hills, California, likely of heart failure.

Members of his audiences, dressed as clowns, playing cards or giant tomatoes, would shriek "Monty, Monty, Monty!" as they tried to convince Hall to give them a chance to win a washing machine or a new Cadillac. Sometimes the prizes were a "zonk" - a gag gift such as a live donkey or a wrecked car.

Hall was the co-creator of "Let's Make a Deal" and hosted more than 4,000 episodes from 1963 to 1986 (with occasional hiatuses) and then again in 1990 and 1991. The show drew good ratings even as it jumped from network to network and into syndication.

"Let's Make a Deal" became a part of American pop culture, with Hall one of the most recognizable stars on TV.

Hall also produced other



Game show icon Monty Hall accepts his Lifetime Achievement Award during the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Daytime Emmy Awards in Beverly Hills, California, in 2013. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

game shows, hosted variety shows and appeared as a guest star on television series. He was known for charity work for organizations including Variety Clubs International, which raised money for disadvantaged children.

"Many people know my fa-

ther as an icon on TV but he was also a tireless supporter of charities that meant as much to him as his TV work," Richard Hall said by telephone from California.

He was born Monte Halperin on 25 August, 1921, in Winnipeg, the son of a slaughterhouse own-

er father and an actress mother. After working in radio in Canada, he came to the United States in 1955.

In the early 1960s, he was developing game shows and joined forces with TV veteran Stefan Hatots. They devised "Let's Make

a Deal" in which Hall picked people from the audience to become contestants in sort of a trading game. Initially, audience members wore normal clothing but started wearing costumes and carrying funny signs to get Hall's attention.

Hall would offer contestants a modest prize, then give them a chance to trade it for a mystery prize hidden by a curtain, stashed in a big box or concealed behind door No. 1, door No. 2 or door No. 3. That prize might be worth thousands of dollars or might be a "zonk" like a farm animal. Audience members jumped up and down, shouted, cried and kissed Hall when they won, and sometimes even when they lost.

"In 4,700 shows, I got kissed 50,000 times," Hall said in an interview with a classic TV website. "Even when they lost, they were very nice about it. But you know the law in game shows - if you go on a show and you win a donkey, that's your prize. You're entitled to it."

The show's producers showed mercy on the "zonk" winners, however. After the taping of the show, they would be offered a substitute prize, such as a television, and most would take it. — Reuters ■

## Honesty is key for healthy relationship, says Nick Jonas

LONDON — Singer Nick Jonas says honesty is most important to keep the relationship intact.

The "Find You" hitmaker, who previously dated beauty queen Olivia Culpo, says it is necessary to be upfront in a relation-

ship even if it is not something the other person would want to hear, reported Femalefirst. "You gotta be honest, trustworthy, and a dog person - not a cat person. I'm kidding, they can have a cat. It's fine, I just prefer dogs..." "My

best piece of dating advice is to be upfront, be honest. Even at times if you think it's not always exactly what the person wants to hear, always the truth is better than being dishonest or not being upfront," Jonas says.—PTI ■

## Lady Gaga assures fans her health is getting better

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Lady Gaga has assured her fans that her health is improving and she will soon be back on stage.

"Getting stronger everyday for my #LittleMonsters can't wait to get back on stage and be with you at JoanneWorldTour #Paw-

sUp," Gaga posted on Twitter.

Gaga had postponed the European leg of her world tour, citing chronic pain.

In her recently released Netflix documentary, "Five Foot Two," the singer revealed she has the chronic pain disorder

fibromyalgia.

As of now, a second jaunt of Gaga's world tour through North America, set to begin in early November, is still on the cards. Plans have been announced to reschedule the European concerts for 2018.—PTI ■

## Domhnall Gleeson almost said no to 'Star Wars' role

LOS ANGELES — Actor Domhnall Gleeson says he almost turned his role in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" as he did not want to face the pressure of fame that came with it.

The 34-year-old actor, who plays General Hux in the new trilogy of the popular sci-fi franchise, says he was worried that being recognised in public would get in the way of his personal life, reported Contact-music.

"Why would I have thought of saying no? Fame is the end

goal for a lot of people but it is not mine. "I worried that the accompanying fame would get in the way of how I live my life. It got a little crazy for a couple of months - for a while, going out and having a drink with my friends was difficult, and then it died down," Gleeson says. The actor will now appear in both the upcoming "Star Wars: The Last Jedi", and its follow-up which is currently just titled "Star Wars: Episode IX". "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" hits cinemas this December.—PTI ■

## Josh Duhamel to receive honorary doctorate

LOS ANGELES — "Transformers" star Josh Duhamel will be getting an honorary doctorate degree in his native North Da-

kota.

The University of North Dakota will bestow the honour on Duhamel, 44, according to The

Hollywood Reporter.

The actor is a Minot native who earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Minot State Uni-

versity in 2005. The state's Board of Higher Education approved the nomination earlier this week.

Minot State does not

grant doctorate degrees, so the university could not offer a similar honour to Duhamel. —PTI ■



# Peace music festival contest held in Hpa-An

LEVEL-1 song contest of Peace music festival 2017 was held yesterday evening at Zweekabin Hall in Hpa-An Town, Kayin State.

Present at the contest were State Hluttaw speaker U Saw Chit Khin, ministers of state government, director general of MRTV, and officials, departmental officials, invited guests and local people. Three singers each from ten places of Taunggyi, Myitkyina, Mawlamyine, Lashio, Patheingyi, Yangon event (1), Yangon event (2), Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Sittway were selected from level-1 contest.

Three singers, Sa Paung (first), Nay Myo Zaw Zaw (sec-

ond) and Atuu (third) were selected at the song contest of Hpa-An yesterday.

The level-1 song contest event of Peace music festival 2017 in Hpa-An was aired on MRTV channel after its eight o'clock news and broadcast live on Facebook pages of MRTV and Peace Music Festival.

The real time announcements of Peace music festival 2017 posted at Peace Music Festival Facebook Page can be seen at [www.facebook.com/peacemusicfestival](http://www.facebook.com/peacemusicfestival). Families of the festival and well-wishers are visiting IDP camps of the host cities and donating provisions.

—Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD) ■



The stage for the Peace music festival 2017 held in Hpa-An Town in Kayin State. PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN

## 8-day holiday period begins in China, 710 mil. expected to travel

BEIJING — An estimated 710 million people are expected to take trips within or outside China during an eight-day holiday period which began Sunday, according to the China National Tourism Administration.

The first week of October is the second-busiest travel period, after Chinese New Year, in the world's most populous nation. And this year the holiday period, which begins with Chinese National Day on 1 October, spans eight days and includes an extra holiday, as the Mid Autumn Festival falls

on Wednesday.

According to the China Daily, some Chinese began leaving last Thursday on trips to tourist destinations or back to their home towns, with 130 million passengers expected to travel by train over an 11-day period.

On Sunday, Beijing International Airport was filled with travellers heading abroad.

According to a Chinese tourism institute, the most popular foreign travel destinations this year are Asian countries such as Thailand,

Japan and Singapore.

But travel to South Korea, a popular destination last year, is down sharply due to a deterioration in relations reflecting Beijing's anger over the deployment by Seoul of advanced US missile defense launchers, known as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence system.

While installed to guard against the missile threat posed by North Korea, Beijing fears the THAAD system's power radar can also be used to spy deep within China.

—Kyodo News ■



Beijing international airport is crowded with tourists heading overseas on China's 68<sup>th</sup> National Day on 1 October, 2017, the start of a weeklong holiday. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Egypt's Alexandria hosts Cleopatra-themed celebration

ALEXANDRIA (Egypt) — The Egyptian coastal province of Alexandria on Saturday held a festive event themed "Cleopatra's Dream" to highlight the discovered sunken palace and city of the ancient Egyptian queen.

A massive ancient-like parade, starting from Qaitbay Citadel, headed through the cornice avenue to newly-inaugurated diving center Alexandria Dive, with a young lady playing Queen Cleopatra seated on a golden throne, dressed in golden royal robes and wearing a distinctive crown. She was also accompanied by an entourage of dozens of officers and maids dressed in ancient Egyptian outfits.

After arriving at the diving center, Queen Cleopatra was taken to a boat trip during which she handed over the key of Alexandria to Governor Mohamed Sultan when the boat passed by a yacht club, while Cairo Symphony Orchestra was giving a live performance of Aida Opera music in the background.

The celebration sheds light on Cleopatra's sunken city and other underwater ancient Egyptian and Greek antiquities in order to promote tourism and make the Mediterranean Sea city a top diving destination in Egypt and around the world.

Held in coordination with

the Egyptian Tourism Ministry, the event was attended by Ashraf Sabry, head of Alexandria Dive, French underwater archaeologist Franck Goddio whose team discovered the city in the 1990s, Volkhard Windfuhr, head of Cairo Foreign Press Association, among others.

"Alexandria is distinguished by having the sunken city, as well as shipwrecks dating back to the fourth and second centuries BC, besides other shipwrecks dating back to the first and second world wars," Sabry said.

Egyptian renowned filmmaker Khaled Youssef directed the carnival, where at least 50 young men and women participated in the simulated Pharaonic parade.

Not only the last active ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom, Queen Cleopatra VII is also considered one of the most famous ancient Egyptian rulers, since Egypt fell into a province in the Roman Empire during her reign.

Being of Greek Macedonian descent, the Egyptian queen drove the merge of the Pharaonic and Greek cultures in Egypt. She was a daughter of King Ptolemy XII and succeeded him as queen in 51 BC at the age of 18. She was born in 69 BC and died in 30 BC.

—Xinhua ■



## AFF sets new format for 2018 AFF Championship

Kyaw Zin Lin

AN innovative format for the 2018 ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Championship was announced on 24 September following the AFF's 12th Council Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia.

Unlike previous championships in which teams were based in two countries after being divided into two groups, this time teams will play in a

home or away basis.

According to the outcome of the official draw, ten teams will be divided into two groups and the teams will play two matches at home and another two matches away.

Nine ASEAN teams are automatically qualified for the AFF Championship final tournament.

Based on the 2016 AFF Championship ranking, Bru-

nei and Timor Leste will face off in a home and away playoff which will be conducted from 3-11 September 2018. Australia will not enter the tournament.

The winner, Brunei or Timor Leste, will then join the remaining nine teams to make two groups of five teams each.

The final round of the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 will be played from 8 November to 15 December 2018. ■

## Myanmar Futsal team in Thailand

IN preparation for 2017 ASEAN Futsal Championship in Vietnam, Myanmar national men's futsal team departed for Thailand yesterday morning.

The trip of Myanmar national men's futsal team is aiming for training and playing friendly matches with Thailand's well known futsal clubs in Thailand.

During the trip, Myanmar national men's futsal team will be handled by Head Coach U Htay Myint. A total of 27 comprising of 20 selected futsal players and

seven futsal board of coaches are joining in the trip.

Myanmar is targeting to grab gold medal in 2017 AFF Futsal Championship that will be hosted in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam from 24 October to 3 November.

All the ASEAN countries except for Cambodia will participate in the 2017 AFF Futsal Championship. The tournament is served as qualifiers for the 2018 AFC Futsal Championship.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

## City stay ahead of United with win over champions Chelsea

LONDON — Manchester City stayed ahead of age-old local rivals Manchester United at the top of the Premier League on Saturday with a deserved 1-0 win away to champions Chelsea.

After Jose Mourinho's United romped to a 4-0 victory over bottom club Crystal Palace, City had much the better of the late game at Stamford Bridge.

"We are so happy," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "The way we played, especially in the second half, was pleasing."

A second-half goal by former Chelsea forward Kevin de Bruyne won it and left City just ahead of United on goal difference.

Chelsea, starting the day three points behind the Manchester pair in third place, dropped to fourth after two more goals from Harry Kane helped Tottenham Hotspur to



Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne celebrates scoring their first goal with team mates. PHOTO: REUTERS

a comfortable 4-0 win away to Huddersfield Town.

Manager Antonio Conte blamed Champions League exertions from midweek for his team's subdued performance.

"It is logical when you play three games in seven (sic) days you risk something," he said.

United's win left Palace rooted to the bottom of the table after a record seventh succes-

sive defeat without a goal to start the season.

Beaten 5-0 away by City in their last game, Palace avoided a repetition but became only the second team since the Pre-

mier League began to lose their first seven games. Unlike Portsmouth in 2009-10, though, they have not scored a single goal.

Romelu Lukaku's late strike meant that free-scoring United have hit four goals in a game six times this season.

Juan Mata and Marouane Fellaini scored before halftime and when Fellaini headed in his second just after the interval, the points were made even more secure.

"We started strong and we finished strong," said Mourinho.

England striker Kane continued his astonishing run by following up a Champions League hat-trick in midweek with two more goals as Spurs went 3-0 up by halftime at promoted Huddersfield. Ben Davies scored the other first-half goal and Moussa Sissoko added a fourth just before the final whistle. —Reuters ■

## Monreal and Iwobi lead Arsenal stroll past Brighton

LONDON — Arsenal maintained their perfect home record this season by comfortably beating Brighton & Hove Albion 2-0 at the Emirates Stadium in the Premier League's early kickoff on Sunday.

On the 21st anniversary of his taking over as manager, Arsene Wenger made nine changes from the side who ex-

celled in the Europa League on Thursday but Arsenal started at the same high-octane level.

After Alexandre Lacazette hit the post in the second minute, they took the lead on 16 when Nacho Monreal struck the ball firmly through a sea of bodies in the Brighton area.

The goal was only the Span-

iard's second in the league -- and first for more than four years -- and only a fine save from Brighton keeper Matt Ryan prevented Aaron Ramsey doubling their lead just before the interval.

Without the suspended Tomer Hemed, Brighton posed a limited attacking threat and a moment of brilliance from Alex-

is Sanchez, who backheeled the ball deftly in the penalty area, set up the second for Alex Iwobi on 56 minutes.

"It was a great team play. I didn't think Alexis would find me but it shows the skill he has," said Iwobi. "He is capable of doing anything. To have eyes in the back of his head and backheel to me was amazing."

Sanchez proved a permanent menace, testing Brighton with his tight turns and inventive passes. Brighton manager Chris Hughes said: "It was a spirited performance. I can't accuse the lads of not giving everything. It is always going to be difficult here, levels of concentration have to be for 90 minutes." —Reuters ■